

# TELEGRAM RECEIVED

1-1336

LMS

FROM

Addis Ababa

This telegram must be closely paraphrased before being communicated to anyone. (A)

Dated September 18, 1936

Secretary of State,

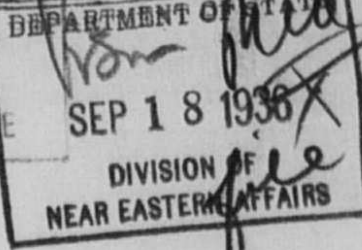
SEP 19 1936

Washington.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

559, September 18, 10 a. m.

Rec'd 2:22 p. m.



On the occasion of the feast of Maskal, an annual Ethiopian celebration marking the end of the rainy season, which will take place on September 27th the Italian authorities are planning a large military review. I have received an oral intimation that the Diplomatic Corps would be invited. The French Minister and German Charge inform me that if invited they would attend. The British Charge is asking for instructions.

Does the Department desire to express any preference as to whether or not I should attend if invited?

ENGERT

RR

SEP 21 1936

FILED

123 EN 3/467

865D.415/1

7

PREPARING OFFICE  
WILL INDICATE WHETHER

# TELEGRAM SENT

TO BE TRANSMITTED  
CONFIDENTIAL CODE ☒  
NONCONFIDENTIAL CODE  
PARTIAL  
PLAIN

Collect

Charge Department  
OR

Charge to  
\$

## Department of State

Washington,

1936 SEP 21 AM 10 19

September 21, 1936.

VIA NAVAL RADIO

DIVISION OF  
COMMUNICATIONS

11am

AMLEGATION

ADDIS ABABA (ETHIOPIA)

THE CODE WORD IS ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ Code.  
It ~~must~~ is ~~carefully~~ handled before  
it is ~~transmitted~~ to anyone. (a)

✓ Your 559, September 18, 10 a. m.

If several of your colleagues attend, the Department sees no objection to your attending, if invited. In general it would seem best not to make yourself conspicuous by your absence if other representatives attend or by your presence if they refrain from attending.

Stull  
(KRM)

NE: PHA/GC  
PHA  
WE  
RB

123 EN 3/467

CR  
SEP. 21 1936.

Enciphered by \_\_\_\_\_

Sent by operator \_\_\_\_\_ M., \_\_\_\_\_, 19\_\_\_\_

#23 EN 3/467 865D.415/1

D/14



LEGATION OF THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
Addis Ababa, September 22, 1936.

No. 185

Subject: Marshal Graziani's Speech at the Opening of  
the Maskal Festival.



FOR DISTRIBUTION - CHECK

To the Field ☐ ☐

In U. S. A. ☐ ☐

865d. 415

RECEIVED  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

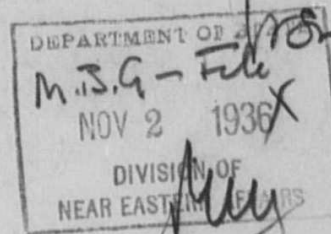
1936 OCT 31 PM 12 09

OFFICE OF  
COMMUNICATIONS  
AND RECORDS



The Honorable

The Secretary of State  
Washington.



865D.415/3

I have the honor to transmit herewith, in translation, a copy of Marshal Graziani's speech on the occasion of the opening of the religious ceremonies connected with the annual celebrations of the Maskal Festival which marks the end of the rainy season.

The speech was typical of the Marshal in that he once again referred to the "malicious propaganda" of Italy's "white enemies" and to the alleged alliance between these white enemies and the Emperor Haile Selassie. Nothing could be more vulgar than his reference to the Emperor as a "mountebank" who, far from being in Ethiopia, is taking "a cure in England, accompanied by beautiful women".

NOV 5 1936

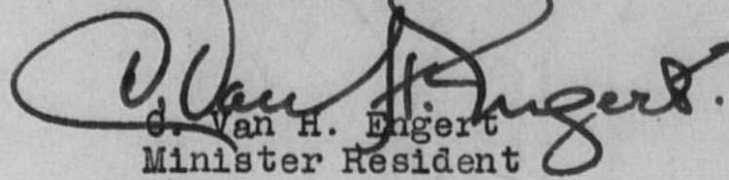
FILED

FP

Respectfully



Respectfully yours,

  
G. Van H. Engert  
Minister Resident

File No. 710/840.7

CVHE/rlh

✓ Enclosure:

Translation of speech.

Copy for Embassy, Rome.

Enclosure to Despatch No. 185, September 22, 1936,  
from the American Legation at Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Translation

Speech by Marshal Graziani at the Opening of the  
Maskal Festival.

(From the GIORNALE DI ADDIS ABEBA, September 22, 1936).

People of Ethiopia and you all who are gathered around the lofty symbol of Christianity, listen on this day, sacred to the Cross, to the frank and sincere words which I address to you in the name of the King and Emperor.

There is still stealthily current in the land of Ethiopia malicious propaganda against Italy according to which it is affirmed on this day of the opening of the Maskal festival that Mr. Taffari - that same Taffari who has been despoiling the live body of Ethiopia with his greed and has led it to a state of ruin with his evil government - is now back among you.

This propaganda, based on lies, is supported by the white enemies of great Italy who are trying to bewitch you. The combination between our white enemies and your own mountebank is a truly touching tribute to Western civilization.

The truth is that Taffari is not here, for the simple reason that he prefers to take a cure in England, accompanied by beautiful women, rather than risk being punished by the Ethiopian people. We, the Italians, are telling you the truth because it is to our interest that the Ethiopian people should not be deceived but that they should cooperate in good faith with us towards the pacification of the country and the progress of Ethiopia.

On this day of the Cross I once more address you these words of peace, harmony and work.

In the name of the King and Emperor I declare the Maskal Festival open.

Central File: Decimal File 865D.415, Internal Affairs Of States, History., Italian East Africa, Commemorative Celebrations., September 18, 1936 - September 22, 1936. September 18 - 22, 1936. MS European Colonialism in the Early 20th Century. National Archives (United States). Archives Unbound, [link.gale.com%2Fapps%2Fdoc%2FSC5109731158%2FGDSC%3Fu%3Domni%26sid%3Dbookmark-GDSC](https://link.gale.com%2Fapps%2Fdoc%2FSC5109731158%2FGDSC%3Fu%3Domni%26sid%3Dbookmark-GDSC). Accessed 18 June 2025.